(c) Railways are engaged in a continuous exercise to free their land from encroachments by following the provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 and Railways Act, 1989.

Peddapalli-Karimnagar-Nizamabad rail line

427. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked this year for completion of Peddapalli-Karimnagar-Nizamabad rail line project in the backward region; and

(b) by when, it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The budgetary allocation for Peddapalli-Karimnagar-Nizamabad new line during 2002-03 is Rs. 10 cr.

(b) No target date has yet been fixed for completion of the project.

Probe team for Rajdhani Express accident

428. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways has attributed sabotage as the cause for accident of the Rajdhani Express in September, 2002 in Bihar;

(b) if so, the findings of the inquiry committee;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Prime Minister had promised an impartial inquiry by a high level and technically well-equipped team, as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 4th October, 2002; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the composition and terms of reference of the new probe team?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) As per Inquiry report submitted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Eastern Circle, the accident occurred due to "opening of fish plates and elastic rail clips of the cess side single rail in Howrah end approach of Bridge No. 445 by miscreants." He has classified the accident under the category of 'sabotage'.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of disaster response team in the railways

429. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "CRS report a bad procedure, says forensic expert" which appeared in 'Hindu' dated 9th October, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon;

(c) whether Government propose to set up an independent transport accidents investigation commission and a disaster response team at National level;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Commission of Railway Safety, a statutory body, functioning under administrative control of Ministry of Civil Aviation, is entrusted with inquiries into serious train accidents under the Railway Act-1989.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The existing machinery has been functioning satisfactorily.

Unmanned railway crossings

430. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of unmanned railway level crossings, State-wise;

(b) the details of the proposals with Government to have manned railways/level crossings in order to avert the accidents; and